

PART 1.
GENERAL PROVISIONS

WAC 246-290-001 Purpose and scope. (1) The purpose of this chapter is to define basic regulatory requirements and to protect the health of consumers using public drinking water supplies.

(2) The rules of this chapter are specifically designed to ensure:

(a) Adequate design, construction, sampling, management, maintenance, and operation practices; and
(b) Provision of safe and high quality drinking water in a reliable manner and in a quantity suitable for intended use.

(3) Purveyors shall be responsible for complying with the regulatory requirements of this chapter.

(4) These rules are intended to conform with Public Law 93-523, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, and Public Law 99-339, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, and certain provisions of Public Law 104-182, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

(5) The rules set forth are adopted under chapter 43.20 RCW. Other statutes relating to this chapter are:

(a) RCW 43.20B.020, Fees for services--Department of health and department of social and health services;

(b) Chapter 43.70 RCW, Department of health;

(c) Chapter 70.05 RCW, Local health department, boards, officers--Regulations;

(d) Chapter 70.116 RCW, Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977;

(e) Chapter 70.119 RCW, Public water supply systems--Certification and regulation of operators;

(f) Chapter 70.119A RCW, Public water systems--Penalties and compliance; and

(g) Chapter 70.142 RCW, Chemical contaminants and water quality.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-001, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-001, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-001, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-005, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-005, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-005, filed 9/8/83.]

WAC 246-290-002 Guidance. (1) The department has numerous guidance documents available to help purveyors comply with state and federal rules regarding drinking water. These include documents on the following subjects:

- (a) Compliance;
- (b) System management and financial assistance;
- (c) Groundwater protection;
- (d) Growth management;
- (e) Operations/maintenance;
- (f) Operator certification;
- (g) Water system planning;
- (h) Monitoring and water quality;
- (i) System approval;
- (j) Small water systems;
- (k) Water resources;
- (l) Water system design; and
- (m) General information.

(2) The guidance documents are available at minimal or no cost by contacting the division of drinking water's publication service at (360) 236-3099 or (800) 521-0323. Individuals can also request the documents via the Internet at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw> or through conventional mail at P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, Washington 98504-7822.

[\(\(3\) Guidance documents are available from the Environmental Protection Agency for a wide range of topics. These are available from the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water website at www.epa.gov/safewater/index.html.\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/index.html)

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-002, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99.]

WAC 246-290-010 Definitions. Abbreviations and acronyms:

ADD - average day demand;

AG - air gap;

ANSI - American National Standards Institute;

APWA - American Public Works Association;

ASCE - American Society of Civil Engineers;

AVB - atmospheric vacuum breaker;

AWWA - American Water Works Association;

BAT - best available technology;

BAT - backflow assembly tester (for WAC 246-29-490);

C - residual disinfectant concentration in mg/L;

CCS - cross-connection control specialist;

CFR - code of federal regulations;

[\(CPE – comprehensive performance evaluation;\)](#)

CT - the mathematical product in mg/L - minutes of "C" and "T";

CWSSA - critical water supply service area;

[\(DBPs – Disinfection Byproducts;\)](#)

DCDA - double check detector assembly;

DCVA - double check valve assembly;

~~((DWSRF – drinking water state revolving fund;))~~

[\(EPA – Environmental Protection Agency;\)](#)

ERU - equivalent residential unit;

gph - gallons per hour;

gpm - gallons per minute;

[\(GAC – Granular activated carbon;\)](#)

GW - ground water under the direct influence of surface water;

[\(HAA5 – haloacetic acids \(five\);\)](#)

HPC - heterotrophic plate count;

IAPMO - International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials;

kPa - kilo pascal (SI units of pressure);

~~((m – meter;))~~

MCL - maximum contaminant level;

MDD - maximum day demand;

mg/L - milligrams per liter (1 mg/L = 1 ppm);

mL - milliliter;

mm - millimeter;

[\(MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level;\)](#)

MTTP - maximum total trihalomethane potential;

NSF - National Sanitation Foundation;

NTNC - nontransient **noncommunity**;

NTU - nephelometric turbidity unit;

PAA - project approval application;

pCi/L - picocuries per liter;

PHD - peak hourly demand;

ppm - parts per million (1 ppm = 1 mg/L);

psi - pounds per square inch;

PVBA - pressure vacuum breaker assembly;

RPBA - reduced pressure backflow assembly;

RPDA - reduced pressure detector assembly;

SAL - state advisory level;
SCA - sanitary control area;
SDWA - Safe Drinking Water Act;
SEPA - State Environmental Policy Act;
SOC - synthetic organic chemical;
SMA - satellite management agency;
SPI - special purpose investigation;
SRF - state revolving fund;
SVBA - spill resistant vacuum breaker assembly;
SWTR - surface water treatment rule;
T - disinfectant contact time in minutes;
TTHM - total trihalomethane;
TNC - transient **noncommunity**;
TNTC - too numerous to count;
UBC - Uniform Building Code;
ug/L - micrograms per liter;
UL - Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.;
umhos/cm - micromhos per centimeter;
UPC - Uniform Plumbing Code;
UTC - utilities and transportation commission;
VOC - volatile organic chemical;
WAC - Washington Administrative Code;
~~**WADOT** - Washington department of transportation;~~
WFI - water facilities inventory and report form; and
WHPA - wellhead protection area.

"**Acute**" means posing an immediate risk to human health.

"**Alternate filtration technology**" means a filtration process for substantial removal of particulates (generally > 2 log *Giardia lamblia* cysts [\(and/or > 2-log removal of cryptosporidium oocysts for systems serving at least 10,000 people\)](#)) by other than conventional, direct, diatomaceous earth, or slow sand filtration processes.

"**Analogous treatment system**" means an existing water treatment system that has unit processes and source water quality characteristics that are similar to a proposed treatment system.

"**Approved air gap**" means a physical separation between the free-flowing end of a potable water supply pipeline and the overflow rim of an open or nonpressurized receiving vessel. To be an air gap approved by the department, the separation must be at least:

Twice the diameter of the supply piping measured vertically from the overflow rim of the receiving vessel, and in no case be less than one inch, when unaffected by vertical surfaces (sidewalls); and:

Three times the diameter of the supply piping, if the horizontal distance between the supply pipe and a vertical surface (sidewall) is less than or equal to three times the diameter of the supply pipe, or if the horizontal distance between the supply pipe and intersecting vertical surfaces (sidewalls) is less than or equal to four times the diameter of the supply pipe and in no case less than one and one-half inches.

"**Approved atmospheric vacuum breaker**" means an AVB of make, model, and size that is approved by the department. AVBs that appear on the current approved backflow prevention assemblies list developed by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research or that are listed or approved by other nationally recognized testing agencies (such as IAPMO, ANSI, or UL) acceptable to the local administrative authority are considered approved by the department.

"**Approved backflow preventer**" means an approved air gap, an approved backflow prevention assembly, or an approved AVB. The terms "approved backflow preventer," "approved air gap," or "approved backflow prevention assembly" refer only to those approved backflow preventers relied upon by the purveyor for the protection of the public water system. The requirements of WAC 246-290-490 do not apply to backflow preventers installed for other purposes.

"**Approved backflow prevention assembly**" means an RPBA, RPDA, DCVA, DCDA, PVBA, or SVBA of make, model, and size that is approved by the department. Assemblies that appear on the current approved backflow prevention assemblies list developed by the University of Southern California

Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research or other entity acceptable to the department are considered approved by the department.

"As-built drawing" means the drawing created by an engineer from the collection of the original design plans, including changes made to the design or to the system, that reflects the actual constructed condition of the water system.

"Authorized agent" means any person who:

Makes decisions regarding the operation and management of a public water system whether or not he or she is engaged in the physical operation of the system;

Makes decisions whether to improve, expand, purchase, or sell the system; or

Has discretion over the finances of the system.

"Average day demand (ADD)" means the total quantity of water use from all sources of supply as measured or estimated over a calendar year divided by three hundred sixty-five. ADD is typically expressed as gallons per day per ERU (gpd/ERU).

"Backflow" means the undesirable reversal of flow of water or other substances through a cross-connection into the public water system or consumer's potable water system.

"Backflow assembly tester" means a person holding a valid BAT certificate issued in accordance with chapter 246-292 WAC.

"Backpressure" means a pressure (caused by a pump, elevated tank or piping, boiler, or other means) on the consumer's side of the service connection that is greater than the pressure provided by the public water system and which may cause backflow.

"Backsiphonage" means backflow due to a reduction in system pressure in the purveyor's distribution system and/or consumer's water system.

"Best available technology (BAT)" means the best technology, treatment techniques, or other means that EPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions, are available, taking cost into consideration.

"Blended sample" means a sample collected from two or more individual sources at a point downstream of the confluence of the individual sources and prior to the first connection.

"C" means the residual disinfectant concentration in mg/L at a point before or at the first consumer.

"Category red operating permit" means an operating permit identified as such pursuant to chapter 246-294 WAC. Placement in this category results in permit issuance with conditions and a determination that the system is inadequate.

"Chemical contaminant treatment facility" means a treatment facility specifically used for the purpose of removing chemical contaminants.

"Clarification" means a treatment process that uses gravity (sedimentation) or dissolved air (flotation) to remove flocculated particles.

"Closed system" means any water system or portion of a water system in which water is transferred to a higher pressure zone closed to the atmosphere, such as when no gravity storage is present.

"Coagulant" means a chemical used in water treatment to destabilize particulates and accelerate the rate at which they aggregate into larger particles.

"Coagulation" means a process using coagulant chemicals and rapid mixing to destabilize colloidal and suspended particles and agglomerate them into flocs.

"Combination fire protection system" means a fire sprinkler system that:

Is supplied only by the purveyor's water;

Does not have a fire department pumper connection; and

Is constructed of approved potable water piping and materials that serve both the fire sprinkler system and the consumer's potable water system.

"Completely treated water" means water from a surface or GWI source that receives filtration or disinfection treatment that fully complies with the treatment technique requirements of Part 6 of this chapter as determined by the department.

"Composite sample" means a sample in which more than one source is sampled individually by the water system and then composited by a certified laboratory by mixing equal parts of water from each source (up to five different sources) and then analyzed as a single sample.

"Comprehensive monitoring plan" means a schedule that describes both the frequency and appropriate locations for sampling of drinking water contaminants as required by state and federal rules.

("Comprehensive performance evaluation (CPE)" means a thorough review and analysis of a treatment plant's performance-based capabilities and associated administrative, operation and maintenance practices. The comprehensive performance evaluation must consist of at least the following components: assessment of plant performance; evaluation of major unit processes; identification and prioritization of performance limiting factors; assessment of the applicability of comprehensive technical assistance; and preparation of a CPE report.)

"**Confirmation**" means to demonstrate the accuracy of results of a sample by analyzing another sample from the same location within a reasonable period of time, generally not to exceed two weeks. Confirmation is when analysis results fall within plus or minus thirty percent of the original sample results.

"**Confluent growth**" means a continuous bacterial growth covering a portion or the entire filtration area of a membrane filter in which bacterial colonies are not discrete.

"**Conservation program**" means policies and activities implemented to encourage or cause efficient use of water on a long-term basis. Conservation programs shall include identification of the conservation objectives of the purveyor, evaluation of conservation measures considered, and identification of specific conservation measures identified for implementation.

"**Construction completion report**" means a form provided by the department and completed for each specific construction project to document:

Project construction in accordance with this chapter and general standards of engineering practice;

Physical capacity changes; and

Satisfactory test results.

The completed form must be stamped with an engineer's seal, and signed and dated by a professional engineer.

"**Consumer**" means any person receiving water from a public water system from either the meter, or the point where the service line connects with the distribution system if no meter is present. For purposes of cross-connection control, "consumer" means the owner or operator of a water system connected to a public water system through a service connection.

"**Consumer's water system**," as used in WAC 246-290-490, means any potable and/or industrial water system that begins at the point of delivery from the public water system and is located on the consumer's premises. The consumer's water system includes all auxiliary sources of supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities, piping, plumbing, and fixtures under the control of the consumer.

"**Contaminant**" means a substance present in drinking water that may adversely affect the health of the consumer or the aesthetic qualities of the water.

"**Contingency plan**" means that portion of the wellhead protection program section of the water system plan or small water system management program that addresses the replacement of the major well(s) or wellfield in the event of loss due to ground water contamination.

"**Continuous monitoring**" means determining water quality with automatic recording analyzers that operate without interruption twenty-four hours per day.

"**Conventional filtration treatment**" means a series of processes including coagulation, flocculation, clarification, and filtration that together result in substantial particulate removal ($(((\geq -2.5 \log \text{Giardia lamblia cysts})))$) (in compliance with Part 6 of this chapter).

"**Critical water supply service area (CWSSA)**" means a geographical area which is characterized by a proliferation of small, inadequate water systems, or by water supply problems which threaten the present or future water quality or reliability of service in such a manner that efficient and orderly development may best be achieved through coordinated planning by the water utilities in the area.

"**Cross-connection**" means any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system and any source of nonpotable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow.

"**Cross-connection control program**" means the administrative and technical procedures the purveyor implements to protect the public water system from contamination via cross-connections as required in WAC 246-290-490.

"**Cross-connection control specialist**" means a person holding a valid CCS certificate issued in accordance with chapter 246-292 WAC.

"**Cross-connection control summary report**" means the annual report that describes the status of the purveyor's cross-connection control program.

"CT" or "CTcalc" means the product of "residual disinfectant concentration" (C) and the corresponding "disinfectant contact time" (T) i.e., "C" x "T".

"CT_{99.9}" means the CT value required for 99.9 percent (3 log) inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts.

"CTreq" means the CT value a system shall provide to achieve a specific percent inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts or other pathogenic organisms of health concern as directed by the department.

"Curtailment" means short-term, infrequent actions by a purveyor and its consumers to reduce their water use during or in anticipation of a water shortage.

"Dead storage" means the volume of stored water not available to all consumers at the minimum design pressure in accordance with WAC 246-290-230(5) and (6).

"Demand forecast" means an estimate of future water system water supply needs assuming historically normal weather conditions and calculated using numerous parameters, including population, historic water use, local land use plans, water rates and their impacts on consumption, employment, projected conservation savings from implementation of a conservation program, and other appropriate factors.

"Department" means the Washington state department of health or health officer as identified in a joint plan of operation in accordance with WAC 246-290-030(1).

"Design and construction standards" means department design guidance and other peer reviewed documents generally accepted by the engineering profession as containing fundamental criteria for design and construction of water facility projects. Design and construction standards are comprised of performance and sizing criteria and reference general construction materials and methods.

"Diatomaceous earth filtration" means a filtration process for substantial removal of particulates (> 2 log *Giardia lamblia* cysts) in which:

A precoat cake of graded diatomaceous earth filter media is deposited on a support membrane (septum); and

Water is passed through the cake on the septum while additional filter media, known as body feed, is continuously added to the feed water to maintain the permeability of the filter cake.

"Direct filtration" means a series of processes including coagulation, flocculation, and filtration (but excluding sedimentation) that together result in substantial particulate removal (~~((> 2-log-*Giardia lamblia* cysts)))~~ (in compliance with Part 6 of this chapter.)

"Direct service connection" means a service hookup to a property that is contiguous to a water distribution main and where additional distribution mains or extensions are not needed to provide service.

"Disinfectant contact time (T in CT)" means: When measuring the first or only C, the time in minutes it takes water to move from the point of disinfectant application to a point where the C is measured; and

For subsequent measurements of C, the time in minutes it takes water to move from one C measurement point to the C measurement point for which the particular T is being calculated.

"Disinfection" means the use of chlorine or other agent or process the department approves for killing or inactivating microbiological organisms, including pathogenic and indicator organisms.

("Disinfection profile" means a summary of daily *Giardia lamblia* and/or virus inactivation through a surface water treatment plant.)

"Distribution coliform sample" means a sample of water collected from a representative location in the distribution system at or after the first service and analyzed for coliform presence in compliance with this chapter.

"Distribution-related projects" means distribution projects such as storage tanks, booster pump facilities, transmission mains, pipe linings, and tank coating. It does not mean source of supply (including interties) or water quality treatment projects.

"Distribution reservoir" means a water storage structure that is integrated with a water system's distribution network to provide for variable system demands including, but not limited to, daily equalizing storage, standby storage, or fire reserves, or to provide for disinfectant contact time.

"Distribution system" means all piping components of a public water system that serve to convey water from transmission mains linked to source, storage and treatment facilities to the consumer excluding individual services.

"Domestic or other nondistribution system plumbing problem," means contamination of a system having more than one service connection with the contamination limited to the specific service connection from which the sample was taken.

"Drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF)" means the revolving loan program financed by the state and federal governments and managed by the state for the purpose of assisting water systems to meet their capital needs associated with complying with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Duplicate (verification) sample" means a second sample collected at the same time and location as the first sample and used for verification.

"Emergency" means an unforeseen event that causes damage or disrupts normal operations and requires immediate action to protect public health and safety.

"Emergency source" means any source that is approved by the department for emergency purposes only, is not used for routine or seasonal water demands, is physically disconnected, and is identified in the purveyor's emergency response plan.

"Engineering design review report" means a form provided by the department and completed for a specific distribution-related project to document:

Engineering review of a project report and/or construction documents under the submittal exception process in accordance with WAC 246-290-125(3); and

Design in accordance with this chapter and general standards of engineering practice.

The completed form must be stamped with engineer's seal, and signed and dated by a professional engineer.

"Equalizing storage" means the volume of storage needed to supplement supply to consumers when the peak hourly demand exceeds the total source pumping capacity.

"Equivalent residential unit (ERU)" means a system-specific unit of measure used to express the amount of water consumed by a typical full-time single family residence.

"Expanding public water system" means a public water system installing additions, extensions, changes, or alterations to their existing source, transmission, storage, or distribution facilities that will enable the system to increase in size its existing service area and/or its number of approved service connections. Exceptions:

A system that connects new approved individual retail or direct service connections onto an existing distribution system within an existing service area; or

A distribution system extension in an existing service area identified in a current and approved water system plan or project report.

"Filter profile" means a graphical representation of individual filter performance in a direct or conventional surface water filtration plant, based on continuous turbidity measurements or total particle counts versus time for an entire filter run, from startup to backwash inclusively, that includes an assessment of filter performance while another filter is being backwashed.)

"Filtration" means a process for removal of particulate matter from water by passage through porous media.

"Financial viability" means the capability of a water system to obtain sufficient funds to construct, operate, maintain, and manage a public water system, on a continuing basis, in full compliance with federal, state, and local requirements.

"Fire flow" means the maximum rate and duration of water flow needed to suppress a fire under WAC 246-293-640 or as required under local fire protection authority standards.

"Fire suppression storage" means the volume of stored water available during fire suppression activities to satisfy minimum pressure requirements per WAC 246-290-230.

"First consumer" means the first service connection associated with any source (i.e., the point where water is first withdrawn for human consumption, excluding connections where water is delivered to another water system covered by these regulations).

"Flocculation" means a process enhancing agglomeration and collection of colloidal and suspended particles into larger, more easily settleable or filterable particles by gentle stirring.

"Flow-through fire protection system" means a fire sprinkler system that:

Is supplied only by the purveyor's water;

Does not have a fire department pumper connection;

Is constructed of approved potable water piping and materials to which sprinkler heads are attached; and

Terminates at a connection to a toilet or other plumbing fixture to prevent the water from becoming stagnant.

"Grab sample" means a water quality sample collected at a specific instant in time and analyzed as an individual sample.

"Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWI)" means any water beneath the surface of the ground that the department determines has the following characteristics:

Significant occurrence of insects or other macroorganisms, algae, or large-diameter pathogens such as *Giardia lamblia* (or *Cryptosporidium*); or

Significant and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity, or pH closely correlating to climatological or surface water conditions where natural conditions cannot prevent the introduction of surface water pathogens into the source at the system's point of withdrawal.

"Guideline" means a department document assisting the purveyor in meeting a rule requirement.

"Health officer" means the health officer of the city, county, city-county health department or district, or an authorized representative.

"Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC)" means a procedure to measure a class of bacteria that use organic nutrients for growth. The density of these bacteria in drinking water is measured as colony forming units per milliliter and is referred to as the HPC.

"High health cross-connection hazard" means a cross-connection which could impair the quality of potable water and create an actual public health hazard through poisoning or spread of disease by sewage, industrial liquids or waste.

"Human consumption" means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, food preparation, cooking, or oral hygiene.

"Hydraulic analysis" means the study of a water system's distribution main and storage network to determine present or future adequacy for provision of service to consumers within the established design parameters for the system under peak flow conditions, including fire flow. The analysis is used to establish any need for improvements to existing systems or to substantiate adequacy of design for distribution system components such as piping, elevated storage, booster stations or similar facilities used to pump and convey water to consumers.

"Inactivation" means a process which renders pathogenic microorganisms incapable of producing disease.

"Inactivation ratio" means the ratio obtained by dividing CT_{calc} by CT_{req}.

"Incompletely treated water" means water from a surface or GWI source that receives filtration and/or disinfection treatment that does not fully comply with the treatment technique requirements of Part 6 of this chapter as determined by the department.

"In-line filtration" means a series of processes, including coagulation and filtration (but excluding flocculation and sedimentation) that together result in particulate removal.

"In-premises protection" means a method of protecting the health of consumers served by the consumer's potable water system, located within the property lines of the consumer's premises by the installation of an approved air gap or backflow prevention assembly at the point of hazard, which is generally a plumbing fixture.

"Intertie" means an interconnection between public water systems permitting the exchange or delivery of water between those systems.

"Legionella" means a genus of bacteria containing species which cause a type of pneumonia called Legionnaires' Disease.

"Limited alternative to filtration" means a process that ensures greater removal and/or inactivation efficiencies of pathogenic organisms than would be achieved by the combination of filtration and chlorine disinfection.

"Local administrative authority" means the local official, board, department, or agency authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Uniform Plumbing Code as adopted under chapter 19.27 RCW.

"Low health cross-connection hazard" means a cross-connection that could cause an impairment of the quality of potable water to a degree that does not create a hazard to the public health, but does adversely and unreasonably affect the aesthetic qualities of such potable waters for domestic use.

"Major project" means all construction projects subject to SEPA in accordance with WAC 246-03-030 (3)(a) and include all surface water source development, all water system storage facilities greater than one-half million gallons, new transmission lines longer than one thousand feet and larger than eight inches in diameter located in new rights of way and major extensions to existing water distribution

systems involving use of pipes greater than eight inches in diameter, that are designed to increase the existing service area by more than one square mile.

"Mandatory curtailment" means curtailment required by a public water system of specified water uses and consumer classes for a specified period of time.

"Maximum contaminant level (MCL)" means the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water the purveyor delivers to any public water system user, measured at the locations identified under WAC 246-290-300, Table 3.

"Maximum contaminant level violation" means a confirmed measurement above the MCL and for a duration of time, where applicable, as outlined under WAC 246-290-310.

"Maximum day demand (MDD)" means the highest actual or estimated quantity of water that is, or is expected to be, used over a twenty-four hour period, excluding unusual events or emergencies. MDD is typically expressed as gallons per day per ERU (gpd/ERU).

"Monitoring waiver" means an action taken by the department pursuant to WAC 246-290-300 (4)(g) or (7)(f) to allow a water system to reduce specific monitoring requirements based on a determination of low source vulnerability to contamination.

"Nested storage" means one component of storage is contained within the component of another.

"Nonacute" means posing a possible or less than immediate risk to human health.

"Nonresident" means a person having access to drinking water from a public water system, but who lives elsewhere. Examples include travelers, transients, employees, students, etc.

"Normal operating conditions" means those conditions associated with the designed, day-to-day provision of potable drinking water that meets regulatory water quality standards and the routine service expectations of the system's consumers at all times, including meeting fire flow demands. Operation under conditions such as power outages, floods, or unscheduled transmission or distribution disruptions, even if considered in the system design, are considered abnormal.

"Operational storage" means the volume of distribution storage associated with source or booster pump normal cycling times under normal operating conditions and is additive to the equalizing and standby storage components, and to fire flow storage if this storage component exists for any given tank.

"Peak hourly demand (PHD)" means the maximum rate of water use, excluding fire flow, that can be expected to occur within a defined service area over a continuous sixty minute time period. PHD is typically expressed in gallons per minute (gpm).

"Peak hourly flow" means, for the purpose of CT calculations, the greatest volume of water passing through the system during any one hour in a day.

"Performance criteria" means the level at which a system shall operate in order to maintain system reliability compliance, in accordance with WAC 246-290-420, and to meet consumers' reasonable expectations.

"Permanent residence" means any dwelling that is, or could reasonably be expected to be, occupied on a continuous basis.

"Permanent source" means a public water system supply source that is used regularly each year, and based on expected operational requirements of the system, will be used more than three consecutive months in any twelve-month period. For seasonal water systems that are in operation for less than three consecutive months per year, their sources shall also be considered to be permanent.

"Point of disinfectant application" means the point where the disinfectant is added, and where water downstream of that point is not subject to contamination by untreated surface water.

"Population served" means the number of persons, resident and nonresident, having immediate access to drinking water from a public water system, whether or not such persons have actually consumed water from that system. The number of nonresidents shall be the average number of persons having immediate access to drinking water on days access was provided during that month. In the absence of specific population data, the number of residents shall be computed by multiplying the number of active services by two and one-half.

"Potable" means water suitable for drinking by the public.

"Potential GWI" means a source identified by the department as possibly under the influence of surface water, and includes, but is not limited to, all wells with a screened interval fifty feet or less from the ground surface at the wellhead and located within two hundred feet of a surface water, and all Ranney wells, infiltration galleries, and springs.

"Premises isolation" means a method of protecting a public water system by installation of approved air gaps or approved backflow prevention assemblies at or near the service connection or alternative location acceptable to the purveyor to isolate the consumer's water system from the purveyor's distribution system.

"Pressure filter" means an enclosed vessel containing properly sized and graded granular media through which water is forced under greater than atmospheric pressure.

"Primary disinfection" means a treatment process for achieving inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts, viruses, or other pathogenic organisms of public health concern to comply with the treatment technique requirements of Part 6 of this chapter.

"Primary standards" means standards based on chronic, nonacute, or acute human health effects.

"Primary turbidity standard" means an accurately prepared formazin solution or commercially prepared polymer solution of known turbidity (prepared in accordance with "standard methods") that is used to calibrate bench model and continuous turbidimeters (instruments used to measure turbidity).

"Project approval application (PAA)" means a department form documenting ownership of water system, design engineer for the project, and type of project.

"Protected ground water source" means a ground water source the purveyor shows to the department's satisfaction as protected from potential sources of contamination on the basis of hydrogeologic data and/or satisfactory water quality history.

"Public water system" is defined and referenced under WAC 246-290-020.

"Purchased source" means water a purveyor purchases from a public water system not under the control of the purveyor for distribution to the purveyor's consumers.

"Purveyor" means an agency, subdivision of the state, municipal corporation, firm, company, mutual or cooperative association, institution, partnership, or person or other entity owning or operating a public water system. Purveyor also means the authorized agents of such entities.

"Reclaimed water" means effluent derived in any part from sewage from a wastewater treatment system that has been adequately and reliably treated, so that as a result of that treatment, it is suitable for beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur, and it is no longer considered wastewater.

"Record drawings" means the drawings bearing the seal and signature of a professional engineer that reflect the modifications made to construction documents, documenting actual constructed conditions of the water system facilities.

"Recreational tract" means an area that is clearly defined for each occupant, but has no permanent structures with internal plumbing, and the area has been declared as such in the covenants or on the recorded plat in order to be eligible for reduced design considerations.

"Regional public water supplier" means a water system that provides drinking water to one, or more, other public water systems.

"Regularly" means four hours or more per day for four days or more per week.

"Removal credit" means the level (expressed as a percent or log) of *Giardia* and virus removal the department grants a system's filtration process.

"Repeat sample" means a sample collected to confirm the results of a previous analysis.

"Resident" means an individual living in a dwelling unit served by a public water system.

"Residual disinfectant concentration" means the analytical level of a disinfectant, measured in milligrams per liter, that remains in water following the application (dosing) of the disinfectant after some period of contact time.

"Same farm" means a parcel of land or series of parcels that are connected by covenants and devoted to the production of livestock or agricultural commodities for commercial purposes and does not qualify as a **Group A** public water system.

"Sanitary survey" means a review, inspection, and assessment of a public water system by the department or department designee including, but not limited to: Source, facilities, equipment, administration and operation, maintenance procedures, monitoring, recordkeeping, planning documents and schedules, and management practices. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the adequacy of the water system for producing and distributing safe and adequate drinking water.

"Satellite management agency (SMA)" means a person or entity that is approved by the department to own or operate public water systems on a regional or county-wide basis without the necessity for a physical connection between such systems.

"Seasonal source" means a public water system source used on a regular basis, that is not a permanent or emergency source.

"Secondary standards" means standards based on factors other than health effects.

"Service connection" means a connection to a public water system designed to provide potable water to a single family residence, or other residential or nonresidential population. When the connection provides water to a residential population without clearly defined single family residences, the following formulas shall be used in determining the number of services to be included as residential connections on the WFI form:

Divide the average population served each day by two and one-half; or

Using actual water use data, calculate the total ERUs represented by the service connection in accordance with department design guidance.

In no case shall the calculated number of services be less than one.

"Significant noncomplier" means a system that is violating or has violated department rules, and the violations may create, or have created an imminent or a significant risk to human health. Such violations include, but are not limited to, repeated violations of monitoring requirements, failure to address an exceedance of permissible levels of regulated contaminants, or failure to comply with treatment technique standards or requirements.

"Simple disinfection" means any form of disinfection that requires minimal operational control in order to maintain the disinfection at proper functional levels, and that does not pose safety concerns that would require special care, equipment, or expertise. Examples include hypochlorination, UV-light, contactor chlorination, or any other form of disinfection practice that is safe to use and easy to routinely operate and maintain.

"Slow sand filtration" means a process involving passage of source water through a bed of sand at low velocity (generally less than 0.10 gpm/ft²) that results in substantial particulate removal (> 2 log *Giardia lamblia* cysts) by physical and biological mechanisms.

"Source meter" means a meter that measures total output of a water source over specific time periods.

"Source water" means untreated water that is not subject to recontamination by surface runoff and:

For unfiltered systems, enters the system immediately before the first point of disinfectant application; and

For filtered systems, enters immediately before the first treatment unit of a water treatment facility.

"Special purpose investigation (SPI)" means on-site inspection of a public water system by the department or designee to address a potential public health concern, regulatory violation, or consumer complaint.

"Special purpose sample" means a sample collected for reasons other than the monitoring compliance specified in this chapter.

"Spring" means a source of water where an aquifer comes in contact with the ground surface.

"Standard methods" means the 18th edition of the book, titled *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Waste Water*, jointly published by the American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association (AWWA), and Water Pollution Control Federation. This book is available through public libraries or may be ordered from AWWA, 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80235.

"Standby storage" means the volume of stored water available for use during a loss of source capacity, power, or similar short-term emergency.

"State advisory level (SAL)" means a level established by the department and state board of health for a contaminant without an existing MCL. The SAL represents a level that when exceeded, indicates the need for further assessment to determine if the chemical is an actual or potential threat to human health.

"State board of health" and **"board"** means the board created by RCW 43.20.030.

"Surface water" means a body of water open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff.

"Surface water system" means a public water system that uses in whole, or in part, source water from a surface supply, or a groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWI) supply. This includes systems that operate surface water treatment facilities, and systems that purchase "completely treated water" (as defined in this subsection.)

"Susceptibility assessment" means the completed Susceptibility Assessment Survey Form developed by the department to evaluate the hydrologic setting of the water source and assess its contribution to the source's overall susceptibility to contamination from surface activities.

"Synthetic organic chemical (SOC)" means a manufactured carbon-based chemical.

"System capacity" means the system's operational, technical, managerial, and financial capability to achieve and maintain compliance with all relevant local, state, and federal plans and regulations.

"System physical capacity" means the maximum number of service connections or equivalent residential units (ERUs) that the system can serve when considering the limitation of each system component such as source, treatment, storage, transmission, or distribution, individually and in combination with each other.

"Time-of-travel" means the time required for ground water to move through the water bearing zone from a specific point to a well.

"Too numerous to count (TNTC)" means the total number of bacterial colonies exceeds 200 on a 47-mm diameter membrane filter used for coliform detection.

"Tracer study" means a field study conducted to determine the disinfectant contact time, T, provided by a water system component, such as a clearwell or storage reservoir, used for *Giardia lamblia* cyst and virus inactivation. The study involves introducing a tracer chemical at the inlet of the contact basin and measuring the resulting outlet tracer concentration as a function of time.

"Transmission line" means pipes used to convey water from source, storage, or treatment facilities to points of distribution or distribution mains, and from source facilities to treatment or storage facilities. This also can include transmission mains connecting one section of distribution system to another section of distribution system as long as this transmission main is clearly defined as such on the plans and no service connections are allowed along the transmission main.

"Treatment technique requirement" means a department-established requirement for a public water system to provide treatment, such as filtration or disinfection, as defined by specific design, operating, and monitoring requirements. A "treatment technique requirement" is established in lieu of a primary MCL when monitoring for the contaminant is not economically or technologically feasible.

"Trihalomethane (THM)" means one of a family of organic compounds, named as derivatives of methane, where three of the four hydrogen atoms in methane are each substituted by a halogen atom in the molecular structure. THMs may occur when chlorine, a halogen, is added to water containing organic material and are generally found in water samples as disinfection byproducts.

"Turbidity event" means a single day or series of consecutive days, not to exceed fourteen, when one or more turbidity measurement each day exceeds 5 NTU.

"T10" means the time it takes ten percent of the water passing through a system contact tank intended for use in the inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts, viruses, and other microorganisms of public health concern, as determined from a tracer study conducted at peak hourly flow or from published engineering reports or guidance documents for similarly configured tanks.

"Unapproved auxiliary water supply" means a water supply (other than the purveyor's water supply) on or available to the consumer's premises that is either not approved for human consumption by the health agency having jurisdiction or is not otherwise acceptable to the purveyor.

"Uncovered distribution reservoir" means a distribution reservoir that is open, without a suitable water-tight roof or cover, where the potable water supply is exposed to external contaminants, including but not limited to people, birds, animals, and insects.

"Uniform Plumbing Code" means the code adopted under RCW 19.27.031(4) and amended under chapter 51-46 WAC. This code establishes statewide minimum plumbing standards applicable within the property lines of the consumer's premises.

"Used water" means water which has left the control of the purveyor.

"Verification" means to demonstrate the results of a sample to be precise by analyzing a duplicate sample. Verification occurs when analysis results fall within plus or minus thirty percent of the original sample.

"Virus" means a virus of fecal origin which is infectious to humans and transmitted through water.

"Volatile organic chemical (VOC)" means a manufactured carbon-based chemical that vaporizes quickly at standard pressure and temperature.

"Voluntary curtailment" means a curtailment of water use requested, but not required of consumers.

"Waterborne disease outbreak" means the significant occurrence of acute infectious illness, epidemiologically associated with drinking water from a public water system, as determined by the appropriate local health agency or the department.

"Water facilities inventory (WFI) form" means the department form summarizing each public water system's characteristics.

"Water right" means a permit, claim, or other authorization, on record with or accepted by the department of ecology, authorizing the beneficial use of water in accordance with all applicable state laws.

"Water right assessment" means an evaluation of the legal ability of a water system to use water for existing or proposed usages in conformance with state water right laws. Such an assessment may be done by a water system, a purveyor, the department of ecology, or any combination thereof.

"Watershed" means the region or area that:

Ultimately drains into a surface water source diverted for drinking water supply; and
Affects the physical, chemical, microbiological, and radiological quality of the source.

"Water shortage" means a situation during which the water supplies of a system cannot meet normal water demands for the system, including peak periods.

"Water shortage response plan" means a plan outlining policies and activities to be implemented to reduce water use on a short-term basis during or in anticipation of a water shortage.

"Well field" means a group of wells one purveyor owns or controls that:

Draw from the same aquifer or aquifers as determined by comparable inorganic chemical analysis and comparable static water level and top of the open interval elevations; and

Discharge water through a common pipe and the common pipe shall allow for collection of a single sample before the first distribution system connection.

"Wellhead protection area (WHPA)" means the portion of a well's, wellfield's or spring's zone of contribution defined as such using WHPA criteria established by the department.

"Zone of contribution" means the area surrounding a pumping well or spring that encompasses all areas or features that supply ground water recharge to the well or spring.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-010, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 94-14-001, § 246-290-010, filed 6/22/94, effective 7/23/94; 93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-010, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 92-04-070 (Order 241B), § 246-290-010, filed 2/4/92, effective 3/6/92. Statutory Authority: Chapter 43.20 RCW. 91-07-031 (Order 150B), § 246-290-010, filed 3/15/91, effective 4/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-010, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-015, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-015, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-015, filed 9/8/83.]

WAC 246-290-020 Applicability. (1) Public water system shall mean any system providing water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, excluding a system serving only one single-family residence and a system with four or fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm. Such term includes:

(a) Collection, treatment, storage, and/or distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in connection with such system; and

(b) Collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor, but primarily used in connection with such system.

(2) The rules of this chapter shall apply to all **Group A** public water systems except those systems meeting all of the following conditions:

(a) Consists only of distribution and/or storage facilities and does not have any source or treatment facilities;

(b) Obtains all water from, but is not owned by, a public water system where the rules of this chapter apply;

(c) Does not sell water directly to any person; and

(d) Is not a passenger-conveying carrier in interstate commerce.

(3) **Group A** public water systems meeting all of the provisions under subsection (2) of this section may be required by the department to comply with such provisions of this chapter as are necessary to resolve a public health concern if the department determines a public health threat exists or is suspected.

(4) A **Group A** system shall be defined as a public water system providing service such that it meets the definition of a public water system provided in the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 104-182, Section 101, subsection b).

(5) **Group A** water systems are further defined as **community** and **noncommunity** water systems.

(a) **Community** water system means any **Group A** water system providing service to fifteen or more service connections used by year-round residents for one hundred eighty or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of people, or regularly serving at least twenty-five year-round (i.e., more than one hundred eighty days per year) residents.

Examples of a **community** water system might include a municipality, subdivision, mobile home park, apartment complex, college with dormitories, nursing home, or prison.

(b) **Noncommunity** water system means a **Group A** water system that is not a **community** water system. **Noncommunity** water systems are further defined as:

(i) **Nontransient (NTNC)** water system that provides service opportunity to twenty-five or more of the same nonresidential people for one hundred eighty or more days within a calendar year.

Examples of a **NTNC** water system might include a school, day care center, or a business, factory, motel, or restaurant with twenty-five or more employees on-site.

(ii) **Transient (TNC)** water system that serves:

(A) Twenty-five or more different people each day for sixty or more days within a calendar year;

(B) Twenty-five or more of the same people each day for sixty or more days, but less than one hundred eighty days within a calendar year; or

(C) One thousand or more people for two or more consecutive days within a calendar year.

Examples of a **TNC** water system might include a restaurant, tavern, motel, campground, state or county park, an RV park, vacation cottages, highway rest area, fairground, public concert facility, special event facility, or church.

(c) A **Group B** water system is a public water system that does not meet the definition of a **Group A** water system. (See Table 1 and chapter 246-291 WAC for further explanation of a **Group B** water system.)

(6) A **Group A** system meeting more than one of the categories described in this section shall be classified by the department in the following order:

(a) **Community** water system;

(b) **NTNC** water system; or

(c) **TNC** water system.

Place illustration here.

352B), § 246-290-020, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-020, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-006, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89.]

WAC 246-290-025 Adoption by reference. The following sections and subsections of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 141 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations revised as of July 1, 1996, and including all amendments and modifications thereto effective as of the date of adoption of this chapter are adopted by reference:

141.2 Definitions. Only those definitions listed as follows:

Action level;

Corrosion inhibitor;

Effective corrosion inhibitor residual;

[\(Enhanced coagulation:](#)

[Enhanced softening:](#)

[GAC10:](#)

[Haloacetic acids \(five\) \(HAA5\):\)](#)

First draw sample;

Large water system;

Lead service line;

[\(Maximum residual disinfectant level \(MRDL\):\)](#)

Medium-size water system;

Optimal corrosion control treatment;

Service line sample;

Single family structure; ~~((and))~~

Small water system~~((:))~~;

[SUVA; and](#)

[Total Organic Carbon \(TOC\).](#)

[141.11\(d\) Non-community water system notification for Nitrate >10 mg/L but <20 mg/L.\)](#)

141.12 Maximum contaminant levels for organic chemicals.

141.13 Maximum contaminant levels for turbidity.

141.21 Coliform monitoring.

141.22 Turbidity sampling and analytical requirements.

141.23(a) - 141.23(j), Inorganic chemical sampling.

141.23(m) - 141.23(o)

141.24(a) - 141.24(d), Organic chemicals other than total trihalomethanes.

141.24 (f)(1)- 141.24 (f)(15),

141.24 (f)(18), 141.24 (f)(19),

141.24 (f)(21),

141.24 (g)(1)- 141.24 (g)(9),

141.24 (g)(12)- 141.24 (g)(14),

141.24 (h)(1)- 141.24 (h)(11),

141.24 (h)(14)- 141.24 (h)(17)

[\(141.25\(a\), Analytical methods for radioactivity.](#)

[141.25\(c\)](#)

[141.26 Monitoring frequency and compliance for radioactivity in community water systems.](#)

[141.31\(d\) Reporting of public notices and compliance certifications.](#)

[141.33\(e\) Record maintenance of public notices and certifications.\)](#)

141.40(a) – 141.40(e), Special monitoring for [\(141.40\(e\)\)](#) inorganic and organic chemicals.

141.40(g), 141.40(i) - 141.40(n)

141.61 Maximum contaminant levels for organic contaminants.

141.62 Maximum contaminant levels for inorganic chemical and physical contaminants.

[\(141.66 Maximum contaminant levels for radionuclides.\)](#)

Control of Lead and Copper

141.80 General requirements.

141.81 Applicability of corrosion control treatment steps to small, medium-size and large water systems.

141.82(a) - 141.82(h) Description of corrosion control treatment requirements.

141.83 Source water treatment requirements.

141.84 Lead service line replacement requirements.

141.85 Public education and supplemental monitoring requirements.

141.86 [\(\(a\) - \(f\) \)](#) Monitoring requirements for lead and copper in tap water.

141.87 Monitoring requirements for water quality parameters.

141.88 Monitoring requirements for lead and copper in source water.

[\(141.89 Analytical methods for lead and copper testing.\)](#)

[141.90₁ Reporting requirements.](#)
[\(excluding](#)
[\(a\)\(4\)\)](#)

[141.91 Recordkeeping requirements.](#)

~~[\(\(143.1-143 \(\(Secondary contaminants.\)](#)~~
~~[-5\)\)](#)~~

[\(Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products](#)
[\(D/DBP\)](#)

[141.130 General requirements.](#)

[141.131 Analytical requirements.](#)

[141.132 Monitoring requirements.](#)

[141.133 Compliance.](#)

[141.134 Reporting and recordkeeping.](#)

[141.135 Treatment technique for control of](#)
[disinfection by-product precursors.](#)

[Enhanced Filtration – Reporting and](#)
[Recordkeeping](#)

[141.175\(b\) Individual filter reporting and follow-up](#)
[action requirements for systems](#)
[treating surface water with](#)
[conventional, direct, or in-line filtration](#)
[and serving at least 10,000 people.](#)

[Subpart Q – Public Notification Rule](#)

[141.201 General public notification](#)
[requirements.](#)

[141.202 Tier 1 Public Notice – Form, manner,](#)
[and frequency of notice.](#)

[141.203 Tier 2 Public Notice – Form, manner,](#)
[and frequency of notice.](#)

[141.204 Tier 3 Public Notice – Form, manner,](#)
[and frequency of notice.](#)

[141.205 Content of the public notice.](#)

[141.206 Notice to new billing units or new](#)
[customers.](#)

[141.207 Special notice of the availability of](#)
[unregulated contaminant monitoring](#)
[results.](#)

[141.208 Special notice for exceedances of the](#)
[SMCL for fluoride.](#)

[141.209 Special notice for nitrate exceedances](#)
[above MCL by non-community water](#)
[systems \(NCWS\), where granted](#)
[permission by the primacy agency](#)
[under sec. 141.11\(d\).](#)

[143.1 –](#)
[143.5 Secondary contaminants.\)](#)

Copies of the incorporated sections and subsections of Title 40 CFR are available from the Department of Health, Airdustrial Center Building 3, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, Washington 98504-7822, or by calling the department's drinking water hotline at 1-800-521-0323.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-025, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99.
Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 94-14-001, § 246-290-025, filed 6/22/94, effective 7/23/94.]

WAC 246-290-030 General administration. (1) The department and the health officer for each local health jurisdiction may develop a joint plan of operation. This plan shall:

- (a) List the roles and responsibilities of each agency;
- (b) Specifically designate those **Group A** systems for which the department and local health officer have primary responsibility;
- (c) Provide for an agreed-to level of public water system oversight;
- (d) Be signed by the department and the local health department or district; and
- (e) Be reviewed at least once every five years and updated as needed.

Wherever in this chapter the term "department" is used, the term "health officer" may be substituted based on the terms of this plan of operation.

(2) The department shall, upon request, review and report on the adequacy of water supply supervision to both the state and local boards of health.

(3) The local board of health may adopt rules governing **Group A** water systems within its jurisdiction for which the health officer has assumed primary responsibility. Adopted local board of health rules shall be:

- (a) No less stringent than this chapter; and
- (b) Revised, if necessary, within twelve months after the effective date of revised state board of health rules. During this time period, existing local rules shall remain in effect, except provisions of the revised state board of health rules that are more stringent than the local board of health rules shall apply.

(4) For those **Group A** water systems where the health officer has assumed primary responsibility, the health officer may approve project reports and construction documents in accordance with engineering criteria approved by the department and listed under Part 3 of this chapter and water system plans in accordance with planning criteria listed under WAC 246-290-100.

(5) An advisory committee shall be established to provide advice to the department on the organization, functions, service delivery methods, and funding of the drinking water program. Members shall be appointed by the department for fixed terms of no less than two years, and may be reappointed. The committee shall reflect a broad range of interests in the regulation of public water supplies, including water utilities of all sizes, local governments, business groups, special purpose districts, local health jurisdictions, other state and federal agencies, financial institutions, environmental organizations, the legislature, professional engineers engaged in water system design, and other groups substantially affected by the department's role in implementing state and federal requirements for public water systems.

(6) The department may develop guidance to clarify sections of the rules as needed and make these available for distribution. Copies of the guidance may be obtained by contacting the division of drinking water.

(7) Fees may be charged and collected by the department as authorized in chapter 43.20B RCW and by local health agencies as authorized in RCW 70.05.060 to recover all or a portion of the costs incurred in administering this chapter or that are required to be paid under WAC 246-290-990.

(8) All state and local agencies involved in review, approval, surveillance, testing, and/or operation of public water systems, or issuance of permits for buildings or sewage systems shall be governed by these rules and any decisions of the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-030, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99.
Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 94-14-001, § 246-290-030, filed 6/22/94, effective 7/23/94;

93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-030, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-030, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-025, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-025, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-025, filed 9/8/83.]

WAC 246-290-035 Water system ownership. (1) The following requirements apply to all newly developed public water systems:

(a) Except for systems proposed within an individual water system's approved service area in a critical water supply service area as governed by the Public Water System Coordination Act, chapter 70.116 RCW and chapter 246-293 WAC, and offered service by that existing system, any proposed new public water system must be owned or operated by a department approved satellite management agency (SMA) if one is available;

(b) The approval of any proposed new public water system shall be conditioned upon the periodic review of the system's operational history to determine its ability to meet the department's financial viability and other operating requirements. If, upon periodic review, the department determines the system is in violation of financial viability or other operating requirements, the system shall transfer ownership to an approved SMA or obtain operation and management by an approved SMA, if such ownership or operation and management can be made with reasonable economy and efficiency.

(2) An owner of a public water system who is proposing to transfer or has transferred ownership shall:

(a) Provide written notice to the department and all consumers at least one year prior to the transfer, unless the new owner agrees to an earlier date. Notification shall include a time schedule for transferring responsibilities, identification of the new owner, and under what authority the new ownership will operate. If the system is a corporation, identification of the registered agent shall also be provided;

(b) Ensure all health-related standards pursuant to this chapter are met during transfer of the utility. It shall also be the responsibility of the utility transferring ownership to inform and train the new owner regarding operation of the utility; and

(c) Comply with the operating permit requirements pursuant to chapter 246-294 WAC.

(3) The purveyor may be required to document compliance with other relevant ownership requirements, such as those pursuant to UTC jurisdiction under Title 80 RCW.

(4) No purveyor may end utility operations without providing written notice to all customers and to the department at least one year prior to termination of service. A purveyor that fails to provide such notice remains subject to the provisions of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-035, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99.]

WAC 246-290-040 Engineering requirements. (1) Purveyors shall ensure that all work required to be prepared under the direction of a professional engineer, including, but not limited to, water system plans, project reports, corrosion control recommendation reports, tracer studies, construction documents and construction completion reports, and engineering design review reports for distribution-related submittal exceptions, is prepared under the direction, and bears the seal, date, and signature of a professional engineer:

(a) Licensed in the state of Washington under chapter 18.43 RCW; and

(b) Having specific expertise regarding design, operation, and maintenance of public water systems.

(2) Exceptions to this requirement are projects identified under WAC 246-290-125 (1)(a) through (d).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-040, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 94-14-001, § 246-290-040, filed 6/22/94, effective 7/23/94; 93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-040, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B),

recodified as § 246-290-040, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-035, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-035, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-035, filed 9/8/83.]

WAC 246-290-050 Enforcement. When any purveyor is out of compliance with a law or rule regulating public water systems and administered by the department, the department may initiate appropriate enforcement actions, regardless of any prior approvals issued. These actions may include, but are not limited to, any one or combination of the following:

- (1) Notice of violation instructing or requiring appropriate corrective measures;
- (2) Compliance schedule for specific actions necessary to achieve compliance status;
- (3) Departmental order requiring submission of project reports, construction documents, and construction report forms;
- (4) Departmental order requiring specific actions or ceasing unacceptable activities within a designated time period;
- (5) Departmental order to stop work and/or refrain from using any public water system or improvements thereto until all written approvals required by statute or rule are obtained;
- (6) Imposition of civil penalties may be issued for up to five thousand dollars per day per violation, or, in the case of a violation that has been determined to be a public health emergency, a penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day per violation under authority of chapter 70.119A RCW;
- (7) Imposition of civil penalties may be issued to a person who constructs, modifies, or expands a public water system or who commences the construction, modification, or expansion of a public water system without first obtaining the required department approval. The amount of the penalty may be up to five thousand dollars per service connection, or, in the case of a system serving a transient population, a penalty of not more than four hundred dollars per person based on the highest average daily population the system serves or is anticipated to serve. The total penalty that may be imposed pursuant to this subsection and RCW 70.119A.040 (1)(b) is five hundred thousand dollars;
- (8) Action that requires the purveyor to take preventive or corrective steps when results of a sanitary survey or special purpose investigation conducted by, or on behalf of, the department indicate conditions that are currently or may become a detriment to system operation;
- (9) Legal action may be taken by the attorney general or local prosecutor. The legal action may be criminal or civil.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-050, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-050, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-050, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-045, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-045, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-045, filed 9/8/83.]

WAC 246-290-060 Variances, exemptions, and waivers. (1) General.

- (a) The state board of health may grant variances, exemptions, and waivers of the requirements of this chapter according to the procedures outlined in subsection (5) of this section. See WAC 246-290-300 (4)(g) and (7)(f) for monitoring waivers.
- (b) Consideration by the board of requests for variances, exemptions, and waivers shall not be considered adjudicative proceedings as that term is defined in chapter 34.05 RCW.
- (c) Statements and written material regarding the request may be presented to the board at or before the public hearing wherein the application will be considered. Allowing cross-examination of witnesses shall be within the discretion of the board.
- (d) The board may grant a variance, exemption, or waiver if it finds:

- (i) Due to compelling factors, the public water system is unable to comply with the requirements; and
 - (ii) The granting of the variance, exemption, or waiver will not result in an unreasonable risk to the health of consumers.
- (2) Variances.
- (a) MCL.
- (i) The board may grant a MCL variance to a public water system that cannot meet the MCL requirements because of characteristics of the source water that is reasonably available to the system.
 - (ii) A MCL variance may only be granted after the system has applied the best available technology (BAT), treatment techniques, or other means as identified by the environmental protection agency (EPA) and still cannot meet an MCL standard as specified in section 1415, Public Law 93-523 (federal Safe Drinking Water Act) as amended by Public Law 99-339 (SDWA amendments of 1986), and Public Law 104-182 (SDWA amendments of 1996), as codified at 42 USC 300g-4.
 - (iii) A variance shall not be granted from the MCL for presence of total coliform under WAC 246-290-310(2).
- (b) Treatment techniques.
- (i) The board may grant a treatment technique variance to a public water system if the system demonstrates that the treatment technique is not necessary to protect the health of consumers because of the nature of the system's source water.
 - (ii) A variance shall not be granted from any treatment technique requirement under Part 6 of chapter 246-290 WAC.
- (c) The board shall condition the granting of a variance upon a compliance schedule as described in subsection (6) of this section.
- (3) Exemptions.
- (a) The board may grant a MCL or treatment technique exemption to a public water system that cannot meet an MCL standard or provide the required treatment in a timely manner, or both, as specified under section 1416, Public Law 93-523 (federal Safe Drinking Water Act) as amended by Public Law 99-339 (SDWA amendments of 1986), and Public Law 104-182 (SDWA amendments of 1996), as codified at 42 USC 300g-4.
- (b) An exemption may be granted for up to one year if the system was:
- (i) In operation on the effective date of the MCL or treatment technique requirement; or
 - (ii) Not in operation on the effective date, and no reasonable alternative source of drinking water is available.
- (c) No exemption shall be granted from:
- (i) The requirement to provide a residual disinfectant concentration in the water entering the distribution system under WAC 246-290-662 or 246-290-692; or
 - (ii) The MCL for presence of total coliform under WAC 246-290-310(2).
- (d) The board shall condition the granting of an exemption upon a compliance schedule as described in subsection (6) of this section.
- (4) Waivers. The board may grant a waiver to a public water system if the system cannot meet the requirements of these regulations pertaining to any subject not covered by EPA regulations.
- (5) Procedures.
- (a) For variances and exemptions. The board shall consider granting a variance or exemption to a public water system upon completion of the following actions:
- (i) The purveyor applies in writing to the department. The application, which may be in the form of a letter, shall clearly state the reason for the request and what actions the purveyor has taken to meet the requirement;
 - (ii) The purveyor provides notice of the purveyor's application to consumers and provides proof of such notice to the department;
 - (iii) The department prepares recommendations, including a compliance schedule for the board's consideration;
 - (iv) The board provides notice for and conducts a public hearing on the purveyor's request; and

(v) EPA reviews any variance or exemption granted by the board for concurrence, revocation, or revision as provided under sections 1415 and 1416 of Public Law 93-523 (federal Safe Drinking Water Act), as amended, codified at 42 USC 300g-4.

(b) For waivers. The board shall consider granting a waiver upon completion of the following actions:

(i) The purveyor applies to the department in writing. The application, which may be in the form of a letter, shall clearly state the reason for the request;

(ii) The purveyor provides notice of the purveyor's application to consumers and provides proof of such notice to the department;

(iii) The department prepares a recommendation to the board; and

(iv) The board provides notice for and conducts a public hearing on the purveyor's request.

(6) Compliance schedule.

(a) The board shall condition the granting of a variance or exemption based on a compliance schedule. The compliance schedule shall include:

(i) Actions the purveyor shall undertake to comply with a MCL or treatment technique requirement within a specified time period; and

(ii) A description and time-table for implementation of interim control measures the department may require while the purveyor completes the actions required in (a)(i) of this subsection.

(b) The purveyor shall complete the required actions in the compliance schedule within the stated time frame.

(7) Extensions to exemptions.

(a) The board may extend the final date of compliance prescribed in the compliance schedule for a period of up to three years after the date the exemption was granted upon a finding that the water system:

(i) Cannot meet the MCL or treatment technique requirements without capital improvements that cannot be completed within the original exemption period;

(ii) Has entered into an agreement to obtain needed financial assistance for necessary improvements; or

(iii) Has entered into an enforceable agreement to become part of a regional public water system and the system is taking all practicable steps to meet the MCL.

(b) The board may extend the final date of compliance prescribed in the compliance schedule of an exemption for one or more additional two-year periods if the purveyor:

(i) Is a community water system providing water to less than five hundred service connections;

(ii) Needs financial assistance for the necessary improvements; and

(iii) Is taking all practicable steps to meet the compliance schedule.

(c) Procedures listed in subsection (5) of this section shall be followed in the granting of extensions to exemptions.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.02.050. 99-07-021, § 246-290-060, filed 3/9/99, effective 4/9/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 94-14-001, § 246-290-060, filed 6/22/94, effective 7/23/94; 93-08-011 (Order 352B), § 246-290-060, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93; 91-02-051 (Order 124B), recodified as § 246-290-060, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: P.L. 99-339. 89-21-020 (Order 336), § 248-54-055, filed 10/10/89, effective 11/10/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.04.045. 88-05-057 (Order 307), § 248-54-055, filed 2/17/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. 83-19-002 (Order 266), § 248-54-055, filed 9/8/83.]